



Captain Ronald Horton United States Navy

Commanding Officer USS Enterprise (CVN 65)



Capt. Ron Horton was raised in New Suffolk, N.Y., and graduated from Southold High School in 1978. He received his bachelor's degree in 1982 from the United States Naval Academy.

Upon graduation from the academy, he served as a seamanship and navigation instructor and then began flight training in October 1982. He was designated a naval aviator in September 1984, and in March 1985, Captain Horton reported to Fighter Attack Squadron (VA) 128, in Whidbey Island, Wash., to train in the A-6E Intruder.

In November 1985, he reported to the "Eagles" of VA-115 aboard USS Midway (CV 41), forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. During his Far East tour, he completed two deployments including a deployment to the Indian Ocean where he participated in Operation Earnest Will, escorting Kuwaiti flagged tankers through the Strait of Hormuz. During his tour, he served in a variety of operational, safety, maintenance, and administrative billets. In 1988, Capt. Horton was selected as VA-115 Pilot of the Year.

In May 1989, Capt. Horton returned to VA-128 as an instructor pilot and LSO. During his tour he served as the Carrier Qualification Phase head and was selected as the Commander, Medium Attack Electronic Wing, Pacific Instructor Pilot of the Year. In October 1991, Capt. Horton moved to San Diego, Calif., and reported to the staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing Fourteen attached to USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and served as staff LSO, safety officer, and assistant operations officer.

In April 1993, Capt. Horton was selected to transition to the F/A-18 Hornet and completed initial training in the Hornet at VFA-125 in Lemoore, Calif. He then reported to the "Blue Diamonds" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146 for his department head tour. During this tour he served as operations officer, maintenance officer, and administrative officer. While serving with VFA-146, he completed a deployment aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) to the Arabian Gulf and participated in Operation Southern Watch as well as contingency operations in support of Taiwan's first democratic elections. In August 1996, Capt. Horton received orders to U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he served as the aide-de-camp to Commander, U.S. Space Command/NORAD/Air Force Space Command until July 1998.

In December 1998, Capt. Horton returned to the Far East and reported to the "World Famous Golden Dragons" of VFA-192 as its executive officer. Capt. Horton took command of the "World Famous Golden Dragons" in December 1999 and commanded the squadron until February 2001. During his command tour, VFA-192 was awarded the 2000 Michael J. Estocin Award, 2000 COMNAVAIRPAC Battle "E" and Safety "S," and the COMPACFLT "Retention Excellence" Award.

In September 2000, Capt. Horton was selected for major command at sea and began nuclear power training in May 2001. Upon completion of nuclear power training, he reported to USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) as its executive officer from January 2003 to September 2004. During this tour, he participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and hosted the President of the United States.

In December 2004, Capt. Horton returned to the Far East and took command of USS Junau (LPD 10) as a part of Amphibious Forces Seventh Fleet homeported in Sasebo, Japan. During his tour, he participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Enduring Freedom-Philippines.

Capt. Horton has accumulated more than 3,700 flight hours including more than 3,400 in tactical jet aircraft and over 750 carrier arrested landings. His awards include two Legions of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Strike/Flight Air Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals and various unit and service awards.

USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
The World's First Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier